



## General Assembly

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Question of Cyprus

### **Letter dated 5 September 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith an information note (see annex) conveying the position of the Republic of Turkey regarding a letter dated 15 June 2012 and its annex, contained in document A/66/851.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 43.

*(Signed)* Ertuğrul Apakan  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the letter dated 5 September 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Referring to the letter dated 15 June 2012 and its annex (A/66/851), concerning the views of the Greek Cypriot authorities with respect to the oil exploitation and exploration licences granted to the Turkish Petroleum Corporation, the Republic of Turkey, recalling its information note dated 2 March 2004, published in *Law of the Sea Bulletin* No. 54, would like to put on record the following.

The decrees published in the Turkish *Official Gazette* of 27 April 2012 granting oil exploration and exploitation licences to the Turkish Petroleum Corporation are indeed the decrees complementing the prior ones adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2007 and 2008, which are renewed every year.

The Republic of Turkey wishes to emphasize that the above-mentioned permit areas decreed by the Council of Ministers fall entirely within the Turkish continental shelf where Turkey exercises exclusive sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting its natural resources of the seabed and subsoil under international law, both customary and case.

The outer limits of the Turkish continental shelf in the Mediterranean shall be determined through agreements with the relevant coastal States based on equitable principles, taking into account all relevant or special circumstance in accordance with international law. While the preliminary talks for this purpose between Turkey and the relevant coastal States are under way, the first continental shelf delimitation agreement between Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was concluded on 21 September 2011.

As far as the delimitation of the continental shelf in the west of the island of Cyprus is concerned, it should be taken into account that it is related to the comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus question, and thereafter maritime boundaries will be determined through negotiations.

Therefore, the Republic of Turkey reaffirms its previously stated position on the subject matter and refutes the arguments and the allegations contained in the above-mentioned document of the General Assembly.

Finally, the Republic of Turkey wishes to reiterate that there is no single authority that in law or in fact is competent to represent jointly the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots, consequently Cyprus as a whole. The Greek Cypriots cannot claim authority, jurisdiction or sovereignty over the Turkish Cypriots, who have equal status, or over the entire island of Cyprus.